

REMARKS

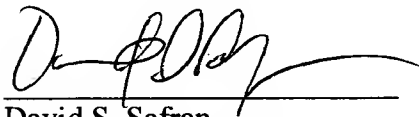
By the above actions, claims 1, 3, 4, and 7-16 have been amended and new claim 17 has been added. In view of these actions and the following remarks, further consideration of this application is now requested.

New claim 17 presents the entirety of allowed claim 5 in the combination context of now cancelled claim 6 so as to likewise be in condition for allowance. Furthermore, all of the other remaining claims have been amended to depend from either claim 5 or new claim 17, and should be allowable therewith. The above amendments should be entered since the actions taken raise no new issues that would require further consideration or search, reduce the number of claims, reduce the number of issues remaining and should place the application in condition for allowance.

Thus, the outstanding prior art rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-10 based upon *Fortune et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,325,218) has been rendered moot and should now be withdrawn.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved or should any new issues arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants' representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,



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